



# The President's Daily Brief

May 12, 1976

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~~Top Secret~~<sup>25X1</sup>

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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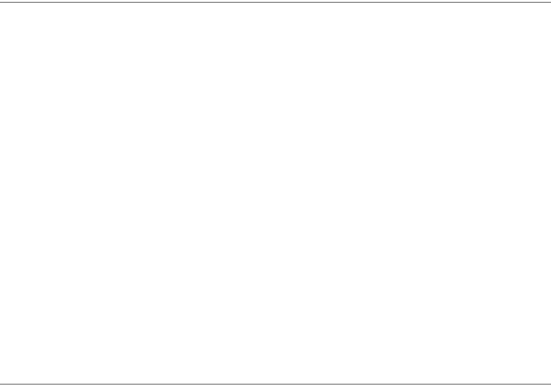
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LEBANON: *The Christians slowed their offensive in the mountains east of Beirut yesterday*



Fighting intensified yesterday in 25X1 the far north around Tripoli. Iraq's agents there apparently are trying to reverse the progress toward a Lebanese settlement, but so far have been unable to trigger broader fighting between Christians and Muslims.

President Franjiyah, meanwhile, is once again saying that he will not resign until security improves. President-elect Sarkis met with Franjiyah yesterday and apparently planned to press him for an immediate resignation. Several aides close to the President expect him to acquiesce by next week, according to our embassy in Beirut.

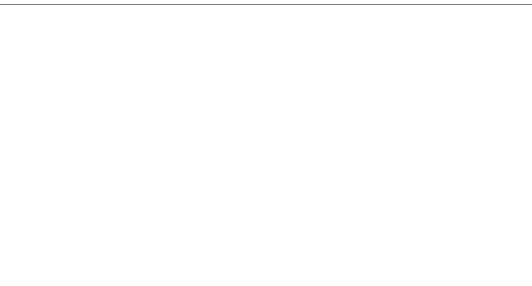
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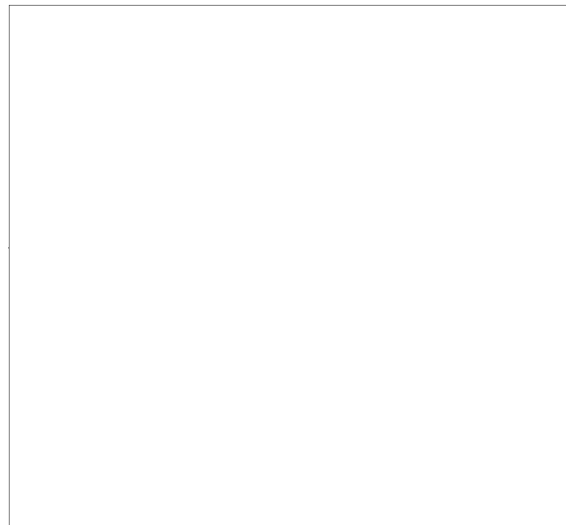


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CHINA: *The situation in the Chinese leadership and throughout the country remains tense more than a month after the riots in Peking and Teng Hsiao-ping's ouster.*

The party's left wing would like to continue its offensive--especially while the frail Chairman Mao is still alive--by stripping Teng of his party membership and purging other unnamed "capitalist roaders." Party moderates have thus far succeeded in preventing this.

The Chinese leaders are making no secret of the divisions among them. Three leading moderates failed to appear with the rest of the leadership at a reception on April 26 for those who put down the Peking disturbances. These three appeared in public just prior to and immediately following the reception, strongly suggesting that they deliberately stayed away from the ceremony.

There is evidence of a feeling among large segments of the populace that the continuing anti-Teng campaign is besmirching the memory of Chou En-lai. A massive effort

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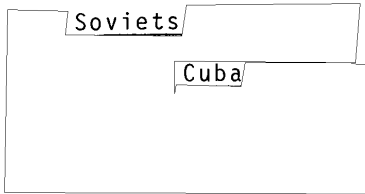
to root out Teng's supporters could well prompt a new and larger round of political turmoil and further incidents of violence such as the explosion last month at the Soviet embassy--something that leaders of all political stripes would like to avoid.

The bitterness caused by Teng's dismissal suggests that the current stalemate cannot go on indefinitely and that another major leadership struggle will occur before some degree of stability is achieved in the upper ranks of the party.

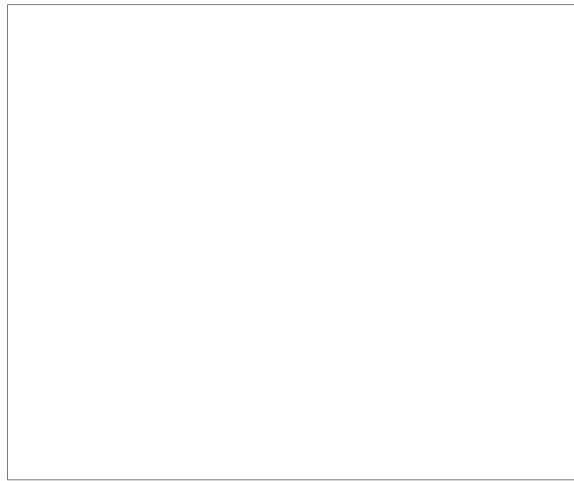
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